

Senate Human Services Committee
Senate Bill 2335 – March 13, 2023

Representative Weisz and Committee Member,

My name is Donene Feist and I am the Director of Family Voices of North Dakota

We are providing favorable testimony in favor of SB2335.

We have heard from many families of children with FAS who fall into the gaps. Because of ND definition of developmental disabilities does not include FASD, many of these children have few to no resources.

Family Voices is very concerned about the continued gaps for families, lack of resources and economic impact for these families. The most we can do is provide 1:1 emotional support or connect them to others who are also facing the same issues or provide a referral to the North Dakota Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Center diagnostic and treatment center which provides wonderful services to families.

Families are struggling.

A council would be beneficial to understand and identify next steps, ongoing needs and impact. Having a council that focuses on the needs of all affected by FASD is vital.

Thank you for your time

Donene Feist

Family Voices of ND

701-493-2634

fvnd@drtel.net